ELECTION 84

The Canberra Crimes

No : 1

NOVEMBER 1984

CANBERRA ANTI-AUTHORITARIAN COMMUNITY NEWSSHEET

CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATIONS/SUGGESTIONS
SHOULD BE SENT TO :
G.P.O. BOX 1814
CANBERRA CITY , 2601

FREE

CRIMES PAST

November 1971: The Northern States Power Company in the USA dumped 50, 000 gallons of radioactive waste into the Mississippi River after the waste storage space in its Minnesota reactor was filled.

Our Daily Poison

Recent statistics supplied by the Capital Territory Health Commission show high levels of lead pollution in several areas of the A.C.T. The National Health and Medical Research Council sets a "maximum permissable level" for airborne lead of 1.5 microgrammes per. cubic metre of air averaged over 3 months . Almost 90% of atmospheric lead comes from car exhausts . Lead levels on Barry Dr. in Civic are often above this level . The average reading over the 8 months to September this year was over 2.3 microgrammes . Levels vary considerably throughout the year depending on weather conditions , being highest in the cooler, stiller months of winter . Even after declining levels this spring the YEARLY average on Barry Dr. will be over 1.5 microgrammes . Lead pollution at Hindmarsh Dr. in Phillip is often over the microgramme level , and readings taken in Belconnen and Tuggeranong are substantial if slightly lower . Many people live and work near heavily-polluted roads or travel on them . Lead levels show no sign of decreasing .

Poison

Lead is a cumulative poison capable of being absorbed through the lungs . There is no known safe level of exposure to lead , and the long-term effects of continuous exposure to low levels are thought to be dangerous . There is a link between high blood lead levels and hyperactivity and brain-damage in children . About half the lead entering our bloodstream is stored in bones and soft tissues such as the liver and kidneys . Here it is normally insoluble , but in feverish illness or old age accumulated lead may be released into the blood at toxic levels .

Most of the lead breathed in every day is added to petrol to prevent "knocking" . Knocking is the excessively rapid burn-up of certain feuls in high-compression engines . Tetraethyl lead reduces knocking and in effect provides a power boost . Adding lead to petrol is a cheap way for oil companies to increase the power or "octane-number" of their fuel . A DEADLY POISON IS BEING ADDED TO OUR ENVIRONMENT SO AS TO MARGINALLY INCREASE THE PROFITS OF MULTINATIONAL OIL COMPANIES .

parliamentary concern ?

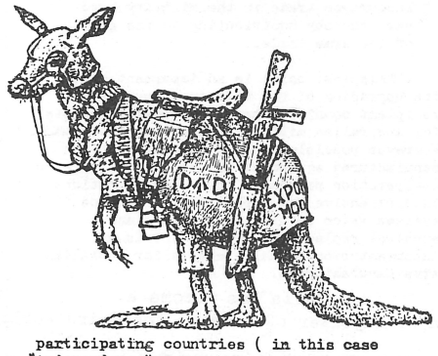
In July 1980 the N.S.W. Cabinet declared that 92-octane unleaded petrol (ULP) would be made available in the state from July 1 , 1984 . Well , that didn't happen . There was a period of intense lobbying by oil companies and car manufacturers who claimed that more crude-oil would be needed to produce ULP , that ULP fuel economy would be lower (wrong) , and that proposed exhaust-emission controls were too expensive for car manufacturers to introduce (although overseas standards many times more restrictive are met by the same manufacturers) . In February 1981 the Australian Transport Advisory Council (of State and Federal ministers) decided to delay introducing ULP nationally until mid-1985 .

When ULP is introduced it will replace "Standard" leaded petrol . Super leaded petrol will still be produced and available at service-stations while a significant market demand exists . The oil companies will want a market for Super well into the

CONTINUED OVER

Australia Aids Human Rights Repression

With the release of the 1984 Amnesty International Report and its findings on international human rights violations, few people would be aware that Australia directly contributes to the repression outlined within the report. In fact, in 1984 - 85 the Australian Government plans to spend $48.2 million on military aid to foreign countries , under the AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE CO-OPERATION PROGRAM. Two of the recipients of aid, Indonesia and the Philippines, are cited by the Amnesty Report as amongst the worst human rights offenders in Asia.



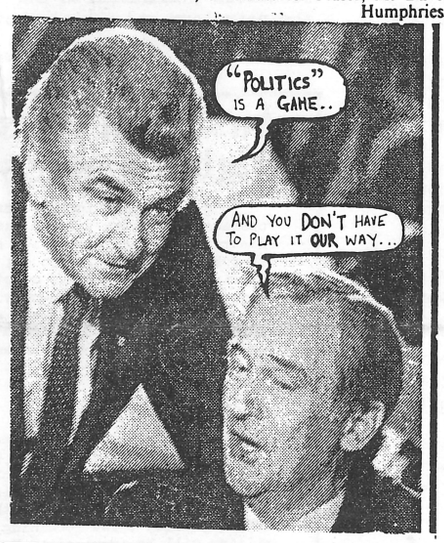
The Defence Co-operation Program - What is it ?

The Defence Co-operation Program (D.C.P.) consists of military aid to countries in South-East Asia and the Pacific as part of the Australian Government's contribution to "regional security" . The aim of the DCP is to promote the "national independence" of participating countries (in this case "independence" means having a strong Armed Force capable of resisting attack from another country) . This is seen as the best way to achieve stability in the region , thereby strengthening Australia's own security .

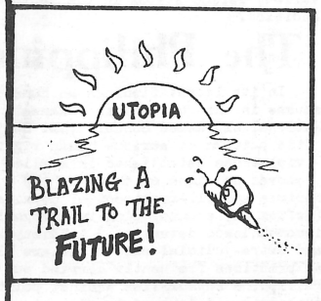
CONTINUED OVER

YOUR CREATIVE THOUGHT IS BEING SUPPRESSED OR PERVERTED TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF CAPITALISM
YOU ARE CONSTANTLY BEING CONDITIONED TO THINK WITHIN A NARROW FRAMEWORK...
YOU ARE BEING SUFFOCATED AND SOME OF YOU MADE MENTALLY ILL BY THE MEANINGLESSNESS OF LIFE UNDER THIS SYSTEM
YOU HAVE NO GENUINE CHANCE TO CHANGE THE QUALITY OF YOUR LIFE THROUGH VOTING.

ACT Liberal Party candidates after lodging their nominations at the Electoral Office yesterday (from left): Mr John McLaren, candidate for Fraser; Mr David Walters and Senator Reid, Senate; and Mr Gary Humphries, Canberra.

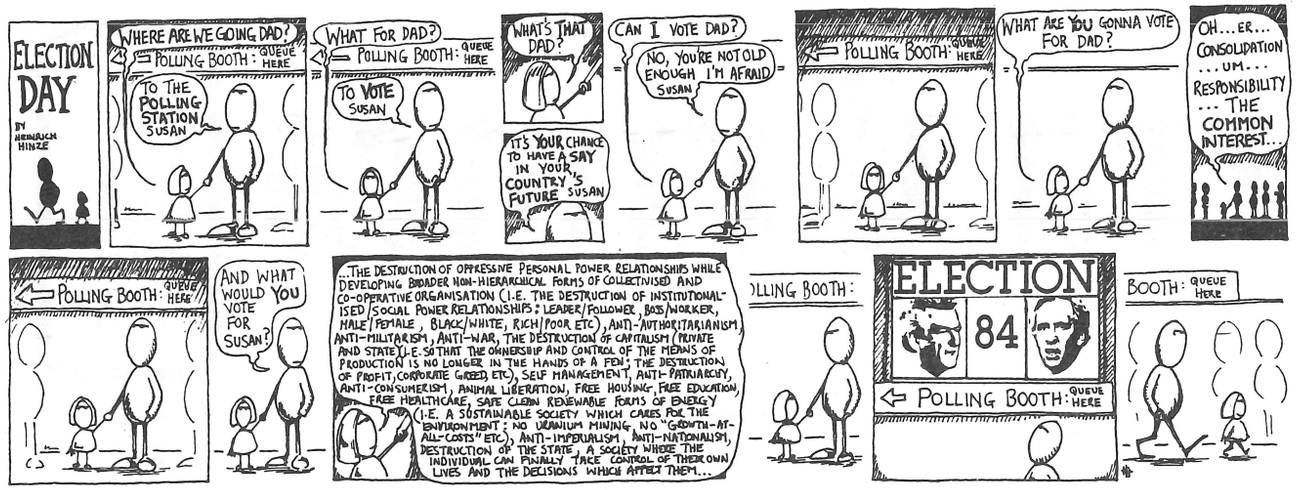


The West German Chancellor, Dr Kohl, left, US President, Mr Reagan, the West German Foreign Minister, Mr Genscher, and the EC president, Mr Thorn, meet before the start of the summit.



WHO WE ARE....

"THE CANBERRA CRIMES" COLLECTIVE IS AN INDEPEND NT NON-PROFIT, ANTI-AUTHORITARIAN NEWSSHEET PUT OUT BY THE CANBERRA CRIMES COLLECTIVE. WE HOPE TO COVER LOCAL ISSUES, LIFESTYLE ISSUES AND ALTERNATIVES; IN FACT ANYTHING THAT CHALLENGES THE GRIM, GREY REALITY OF DAILY LIFE IN CANBERRA. THIS MEANS LOOKING AT WORLD ISSUES (LIKE THE ARMS RACE, THE NATURE OF WORK, PATRIARCHY, ETC.), THE WAY THESE AFFECT LOCAL ISSUES (LIKE THE NATURE OF WORK IN CANBERRA, OUR OWN WORKPLACES, THE WAY WE TREAT OTHER PEOPLE, LIFE IN CANBERRA IN GENERAL, ETC.) AND POSSIBLE WAYS OF TACKLING SOME OF THESE ISSUES. WE WANT TO TRANSFORM CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD INTO A MORE JUST, EQUAL AND FUN PLACE TO LIVE. HIGH HOPES? WELL, WE CAN ONLY TRY. IT SURE BEATS SLOW AND PAINFUL BRAIN-DEATH AT THE HANDS OF CAPITAL SEVEN.....


ELECTION DAY
BY HERMANN HINZE
WHERE ARE WE GOING DAD?
POLLING BOOTH: QUEUE HERE
TO THE POLLING STATION SUSAN
WHAT FOR DAD?
POLLING BOOTH: QUEUE HERE
TO VOTE SUSAN
WHAT'S THAT DAD?
IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE A SAY IN YOUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE SUSAN
CAN I VOTE DAD?
NO, YOU'RE NOT OLD ENOUGH I'M AFRAID SUSAN
POLLING BOOTH: QUEUE HERE
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA VOTE FOR DAD?
OH... ER... CONSOLIDATION ...UM... RESPONSIBILITY ... THE COMMON INTEREST...
POLLING BOOTH: QUEUE HERE
AND WHAT WOULD YOU VOTE FOR SUSAN?
...THE DESTRUCTION OF OPPRESSIVE PERSONAL POWER RELATIONSHIPS WHILE DEVELOPING BROADER NON-HIERARCHICAL FORMS OF COLLECTIVISED AND CO-OPERATIVE ORGANISATION (I.E. THE DESTRUCTION OF INSTITUTIONALISED SOCIAL POWER RELATIONSHIPS: LEADER/FOLLOWER, BOSS/WORKER, MALE/FEMALE, BLACK/WHITE, RICH/POOR ETC), ANTI-AUTHORITARIANISM, ANTI-MILITARISM, ANTI-WAR, THE DESTRUCTION OF CAPITALISM (PRIVATE AND STATE) I.E. SO THAT THE OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION IS NO LONGER IN THE HANDS OF A FEW; THE DESTRUCTION OF PROFIT, CORPORATE GREED, ETC), SELF MANAGEMENT, ANTI-PATRIARCHY, ANTI-CONSUMERISM, ANIMAL LIBERATION, FREE HOUSING, FREE EDUCATION, FREE HEALTHCARE, SAFE CLEAN RENEWABLE FORMS OF ENERGY (I.E. A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY WHICH CARES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT; NO URANIUM MINING, NO "GROWTH-AT-ALL-COSTS" ETC), ANTI-IMPERIALISM, ANTI-NATIONALISM, DESTRUCTION OF THE STATE, A SOCIETY WHERE THE INDIVIDUAL CAN FINALLY TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR OWN LIVES AND THE DECISIONS WHICH AFFECT THEM...
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CRIMES' SPAN

THUR 15 NOV. - Film (anti-nuclear) "Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang". Griffin Centre, Rm 2. 8pm.

FRI 16 NOV. - A Day For Young Mothers (a resource and fun day). Free childcare provided. 10am-4pm Belconnen CYSS For more info.. PH 51 2852

MON 19 NOV. - Two films, "Home on the Range" (anti-nuclear) and "Bread and Dripping" (womens issues). Belconnen CYSS 11am. Women Only.

THUR 22 NOV. - Film (anti-nuclear) "The Last Epedemic". Griffin Centre, Rm 2. 8pm.

SAT-MON 24/25/26 NOV. - 2nd National Women and Addiction Conference. 24/25 - J Block, Reid TAFE. 26 - Auditorium, 5th Floor Health Commission. For more info phone TOORA-(062)472438.

WED 28 NOV. - Womens' Peace Train leaves from Sydney for Coburn Sound.

THUR 29 NOV. - Film (anti-nuclear) "Home on the Range". Griffin Centre, Rm 2. 8pm.

Oldest man elected President

LANDSLIDE!

Our Daily Poison CONTINUED

1990's and will manipulate the market to stimulate this demand . And there are two more proposed pieces of legislation ; (1) that all cars manufactured after January 1 , 1986 BE ABLE to run on ULP , and (2) that ALL petrol-powered engines made after July 1988 run on ULP . Car manufacturers can be expected to complain again about the introduction of ULP , perhaps to delay its introduction or interfere with distribution where this goes against their vested interests . They are likely to be unhappy about the two proposed bills .

Where the problem is

These half-measures to combat lead-pollution will only REDUCE the amount of lead which will be poured into the atmosphere . To do so will be a perfectly legitimate corporate activity for years to come . And the oil companies are still left with huge monopolies and great power . This is another example of the intimate connections between big corporations and the State bureaucracy for planning and mutual benefit . The companies make profits , the government raises some taxes , and we all slowly get poisoned . We will only make very slow progress in curbing these dangers while government and industry continue to operate the way they do . Slow change enables them to adjust and maintain their control . Crises will continue , be they "ecological" ones (high carbon dioxide in the atmosphere causing climatic changes on a world scale) or more "human" (thousands of road deaths and injuries every year) .

Solutions?

WE MUST FIGHT AGAINST THE CENTRALIZATION OF POLITICAL POWER AND RESOURCES BY :

* cutting down Australian reliance on imported fuels and developing the many renewable resources open to us ;
  - -ethanol alcohol is a high-energy fuel (even when mixed with petrol like in U.S."gasohol" - 90% ULP , 10% alcohol)
  - -hydrogen combustion
  - -electric- and solar-powered vehicles need a lot more research
* cycling and walking as much as possible ; pressuring for more-efficient public-transport systems ; and conserving existing supplies of fossil fuels
* people taking control of their work-places and living environment (away from unaccountable corporations and bureaucracies); planning between interested groups and citizens in a participatory democratic structure and through federations of local participatory groups ; recognizing the diversity of human needs and interests . Safer , cleaner cars , more room for bikes and better public transport can be provided WITHOUT PROFIT-MAKERS , WITHOUT BUREAUCRACY .

UNTIL WE DO MAKE THESE CHANGES there will be expensive and dangerous fuel , more deaths on the roads , exhaustion of finite material resources , meaningless and dangerous work in the petroleum and vehicle-building industries , LOCAL AND GLOBAL POLLUTION .

WILL FIRTH

Australia Aids Human Rights Repression CONTINUED

DCP activities include joint operations (which provide the Australian Armed Forces with a chance to practice in the region) ; the provision of equipment , maintainance , etc. to the recipient country ; and advisory and consultancy assistance (approx. 1240 personel from overseas Forces are expected to visit Australia for courses and study visits in the coming year) .

Who gets D.C.P aid ?

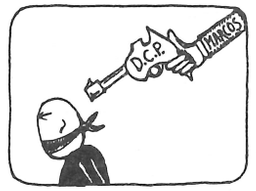
In 1984-85 Papua-New Guinea will again be the major recipient of DCP expenditure , receiving an estimated $17.8 million of the $48.2 million total . Indonesia will also remain a major participant with assistance of $9.8 million . The remaining $20.6 million will be provided to Malaysia , Singapore , the Philippines , Thailand and various island states in the South-West Pacific .

The Philippines

In its latest findings on human rights abuses in the Phillipines , Amnesty International expressed concern that during 1983 "the pattern of serious human rights violations established in earlier years showed no signs of changing"(1) . Torture and ill-treatment of detainees (often while undergoing interrogation in incommunicado detention) , "disappearances" and extra-judicial executions are all listed as practices frequently carried out by the Philippine authorities against political opponents and "subversives" .

The Philippines will receive $1.468 million in DCP aid from Australia next year , which includes maintainance support for Australian-designed and -built DART target ranges . These target ranges are used to train the infantry of the Philippines Army , as well as the Philippines Police , in guerilla warfare and urban fighting . Australian DCP aid to the Philippines will contribute directly to training and equipping an army which is used to enforce :

"-the suspension of civil rights ;
-and , the implementation of policies which involve the detention of tens of thousands of people whose only crime has been to speak out against the repression and exploitation of their fellow citizens" .(2)



DEFENCE CO-OPERATION WITH THE PHILIPPINES

Indonesia

Amnesty International believes there is "strong evidence" that an "officially sanctioned nation-wide anti-crime campaign of extra-judicial killings" had taken the lives of 4000 people in Indonesia last year. Again, Amnesty International cites the illegal detention of people without charge or trial on political grounds, torture and disappearances as part of the extra-legal methods of the Indonesian security forces.

Australian D.C.P aid to Indonesia of $9.8M not only supports the Indonesian armed forces in its internal political war against its own citizens, but the supply of surveillance equipment to Indonesia under the program (patrol boats, nomad aircraft, sioux helicopters and land rover vehicles) are more than appropriate for the military offensives being carried out in East Timor since its invasion by Indonesia in 1975.

THE D.C.P. FAILS TO CONTRIBUTE TO STABILITY IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA BECAUSE IT FAILS TO RECOGNISE WHAT THE REAL CAUSE OF INSTABILITY IS: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INSTABILITY.

The unequal distribution of wealth the exploitation of the land and the people by international corporations and the protection of those inequalities by the powerful elite in each country using the police and army are the real causes of tension and unrest in the region. The linkages between rising militarisation and increased poverty, oppresion and social injustice are well documented. D.C.P. aid is being used to suppress internal resistence and opposition to the oppressive policies of military regimes. Even the D.C.P's stated objective of building up a country's defence forces so as to deter external threats (peace through strength) becomes a farce when we see the D.C.P. being used to aid Indonesian aggression against East Timor and Irian Jaya. Militarisation is destabilising: not just because of the social divisions it reinforces within a country but the fear and suspicion it creates between countries. Military aid achieves nothing but the maintainance and protection of inequality and aggression.

So what does the D.C.P. really achieve?

* It gives tacit approval to the policies of military regimes in recipient countries.
* It contributes to the militarisation of South-East Asia.
* It contributes to the denial of human rights in those countries.
* It serves objectives in conflict with those of the government development assistance program and the government's purported stand on peace, disarmament and opposition to the Indonesian invasion of East Timor.
* Encourages trade in the military hardware thereby contributing to the growth of the arms trade.

This last point is an important one. The upgrading of the military capacity of recipient countries provides growing markets for Australian military industrial production. Wherever possible, Australian designed and manufactured equipment is used in the defence co-operation program, locking small nations into expensive and sophisticated defence systems which require maintenance and eventual replacement. The D.C.P. is an important promotional exercise for Australian Arms Manufacturers.

Australia has become a major exporter of arms to the Third World.

What needs to be done ?

1) The immediate cessation of the Australian Defence Co-operation Program, not only because of the specific cases where it aids human rights abuses, but also because of the whole notion of military power upon which it is based.
2) The immediate public review of all other Australian overseas aid programs to determine whether or not they too contribute to government oppression. This should include developing better working relations with organisations and individuals beyond the usual government contacts. We are often told that Australian aid programs are designed to make recipients "self sufficient". Let us extend this principle to "self management" by the people, by moving away from bureaucratic government and corporate controls.
3) The public release of all information about which countries buy arms from Australia (that information is presently classified), and which Australian companies are involved in foreign defence supply contracts.
4) An end to all defence manufacturers' exhibitions within Australia (like the AUSDES arms exhibition held in Canberra earlier this year). No more support for traders in death.
5) The creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Pacific and the establishment of an Indian Ocean Zone of Peace.

These are some of the immediate steps we can take on the way to ending Australia's participation in the arms race. In its support for militarist oppression, via the Defence Co-operation Program, the Australian Government has indicated that it believes there are more important things in life than human welfare. It will be up to us to create a situation where such twisted thinking no longer determines the rules.

(1): 1984 Amnesty International Report, London 1984.

(2): The Australian Defence Co-operation Program: A Submission to the Australian Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, The Australian Council for Overseas Aid Jan. 1984

CONTRIBUTIONS (ARTICLES , GRAPHICS , PHOTOGRAPHS , CARTOONS , INFORMATION ON COMING EVENTS , POEMS , RECIPIES , TIPS ON SMASHING THE STATE , ETC.) , SUGGESTIONS , DONATIONS (WE ARE POOR) AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE ARE ALL WELCOME . TO RECEIVE NO.2 THROUGH THE MAIL , SEND US A STAMPED , SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE OR SOME MONEY TO COVER POSTAGE . THE DEADLINE FOR NO.2 IS THURSDAY , NOV.22

CANBERRA CRIMES
G.P.O. BOX 1814 ; A.C.T. 2601